

## General Statement, Republic of Serbia

### Agenda item 5

Honorable Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Director General, Your Excellences, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

On the behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia, allow me, first of all, to fully endorse the statement made by the Delegation of the Georgia on behalf of the CEBS Group.

The delegation of the Republic of Serbia would like to express its appreciation for the exceptional results achieved by the WIPO since the last General Assembly in every single aspect of its activities. Significant improvements have been achieved considering the integration of the global system of industrial property rights registering. We would like to particularly stress out our strong support on proposed amendments to the Schedule of Fees within the Patent Cooperation Treaty and in certain changes in favor of some applicants to benefit from a 90 percent fee reduction.

In addition, WIPO played the key role in strengthening capacities of the member states through numerous projects and supporting programs. As a beneficiary of the Program of Cooperation with certain countries in Europe and Asia, Republic of Serbia has regularly obtained support from the Organization in its efforts to strengthen the public awareness of the importance of intellectual property rights, as well to improve human capacities in this aspect. We are especially thankful for that. Speaking of WIPO support of the Republic of Serbia, allow me to kindly say few words on Serbia`s efforts to build up its technological capacities which would not be possible without WIPO.

Since the last General Assembly, we have witnessed an excellent cooperation between World Intellectual Property Organization and the Republic of Serbia, particularly in the field of informational technology. The Serbian Intellectual Property Office has been constantly improving its information system based on WIPO IPAS platform, with focus on electronic filing, electronic documents processing, and publication. Certain technical solutions has been applied in the locally developed e-filing solution in the Intellectual Property Office and they are recognized as the first successful achievements of that kind in the Serbian e-government. Electronic filing of patent, trademark and design applications has been introduced in the Office in May of 2016 and since then one third of all submitted application in the Office has been filled on-line. With the support of WIPO, Serbia will continue with further development of its technological capacities for the benefit of its right holders.

Intellectual Property Office of Serbia has been also recognized in the region for the significant readiness to share its experience concerning the IPAS and the other IT tools with related offices

abroad. Regional experts based in national IP Office are involved in technical assistance and business analysis support in IP offices at certain countries in Europe and Asia. In April of 2017, two experts have attended the joint EPO/WIPO training in Geneva on using WIPO Patent OCR Tool. WIPO has customized the OCR tool according to the needs of Serbian Intellectual Property Office and it's regularly used now for the patent publication processing and data exchange. During the joint EPO/WIPO data processing workshop in San Marino in September 2017, regional experts have presented different patent data processing tools. Several IP offices from the region prepared to implement these tools with the assistance of WIPO regional experts from Serbian IP Office of Serbia. It was partly a consequence of the successful implementation of the patent processing tools of San Marino Trademarks Office.

In the course of 2016 and 2017, regional experts from Serbian IP Office were involved in the implementation and testing of the new IPAS Madrid module releases in the Belarus National Center of Intellectual Property. Besides that, IP Office of Serbia and Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks actively cooperate in the several IT projects, while during January 2017 we've shared experience on WIPO IPAS system with the delegation from the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office.

Application of software modules developed by the Serbian IT experts from our national IP Office has significantly influenced new cooperation between WIPO and EPO which led the numbered joint workshops on data processing subject matter. Cyprus, Macedonia, Albania and Malta as EPO member states has expressed their interest for establishing the cooperation in the field of application of EDB modules. At a moment, preparations for possible implementation of IPAS in Greece are in the process, while the support for implementation of IPAS in Romania will start soon. Certain countries in Central Asia also expressed their interest for application of IPAS and we are very keen to support them in their intention.

Since the last General Assembly, WIPO and Intellectual Property Office of Serbia has continued an exceptional cooperation in organizing several valuable events in the Republic of Serbia. WIPO has been supporting organization of Tesla Fest (International festival of innovations, new products and technologies) in the city of Novi Sad for many years now. One of the most important occasions at the festival is the „WIPO Conference on innovation and intellectual property“. In 2016 the conference took place with the participation of one WIPO representative who awarded the best inventor at Tesla Fest.

On 15th November 2016 in the occasion of celebrating the 96th anniversary of IP office of the Republic of Serbia in the presence of the high ministry's officials, the WIPO awards have been awarded for five categories of IP for the second year in a row: the best patent, industrial design, copyright protected work in the field of the social and humanistic sciences, the invention

realized by the pupils of the secondary schools, as well as for the legal person with the highest intensity of utilization of the international system of the registration of trademarks.

In 2017 two WIPO seminars, which were very well accepted according to the number and relevance of participants, took place in Belgrade. The first one was “WIPO Sub-regional seminar on mediation” on 30-31 May as a first of that kind organized at the premises of IPO. The other one, “WIPO seminar on Collective management of copyright and related works” was held on 8-9 June at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

Beside above mentioned events supported by WIPO, several staff was supported in participation in WIPO Academy professional development programs as well as for participation in several sub-regional events.

The Republic of Serbia will continue with the constructive cooperation with the WIPO and its member states in order to overcome all the challenges, with the aim of establishing the well balanced and stable system of intellectual property.